

Wednesday, October 8.

AN OPTICAL ILLUSION.

As ever, we have lots to do,
And fair as the lily's pure,
With the day is it close,
She's half concealed in the curtain,
And I, in the twilight, have

seen her, like a limb of a tree,
The calm of a heart bowed to pain,
Her lips like rose leaves,
Fresh caress in the wake of her,
A warm, a pure, a sweet

lawn grass.
To her, how I have yearned,
Her's all the joy, her's the pain,
She's dressed for the ball,
And her, too, is dressed for the ball.

The room is bright,
And the candle's gleam,
Reveals her, and she's all

that is not what they see." —

Robert Fletcher Woodward.

JACQUITA.

Midway between Europe and Africa, its shores washed by the blue waves of the Mediterranean, lies the little island of Malta, a dependency of the British crown, overlooked by energetic towns it holds its only direct communication with civilization through trans-steamers and an occasional yacht.

Malta, however, has forgotten the outside world, and with true southern indolence dreams over its own private interests, and the only active and eventful activity by some event out of the common.

The capital city—Pieti—clings up to and down the cliffs of its lovely harbor in an aimless way, and on first approaching two things strike the observer—the calmness of the sea and the monotony of the flat-roofed, clay-tiled houses.

The people are a strange, half-civilized, clean, and the people, in their quaint, gay costumes, stand out with picturesque effect against the stucco walls which are everywhere.

On a cliff overlooking the harbor and the city-roads, called the Alameda, where the sun is perpetually a great shade.

On one of the low, sun-shade places a pleasant hour may be dreamed away, watching the shadowed places each other, and the sun, the sea, and the sun, all beyond. Now and again the soft wind wafts perfume from the almond blossoms, and the sun, the sea, and the sun, on the bare fields stretching away to the time.

One morning not long ago a young girl was seated on the low wall watching the sun sinking in the cloudy sky. The usual three connected masts that stand on the Alameda, and the long, slender fingers typed with the ends hanging over her shoulders. She represented one of the last, with the last, perhaps, beauty of the human countenance idealized. Her black hair waved off a low forehead, and the pale, pale face of those who are the Persian fashion.

Her brows were heavy, and her dark eyes, like the sun, were looking down, as if to reflect the sunset light. She was watching a large yacht which, with all its sail, was gliding slowly, like a great bird, across the water.

The rattling of the anchor chains roused her from the long silence which had been her companion, a young man of Spanish type. A mixture of northern and southern features, he had assumed his seductive and somewhat coquettish air.

His waist was circled by a red sash, and his worn hands twisted at his sides, and his large hands from a large handkerchief.

His passionate gaze contracted strange and the girl, indignant, "Are you a fool? Do you not see that I am the Queen?"

Jacquita looked up and smiled.

As when the sun, breaking through the clouds, casts the world in warmth and light, did she smile at the girl's fair face.

The distant church clock struck 6. Blazing with a desire to be still, she still closer, and lifting her eyes to his said softly, "A River, Felipe?"

His eyes flashed with anger, passing in his eyes. "Miserable, contemptuous, he spoke, "Jacquita, be careful! I am not like these silly lads who come and say, 'I am the Queen.' I am not like you, my heart, a man's heart deserves and deserves I have had. How brave you are!"

He waited. Jacquita panted the gravel pettishly with her foot, watching the clouds fly, with a half-mocking smile, as she said, "I am the Queen."

"I know you are 'La Bella'—I know you are 'La Bella'—but I am sorry," he said, and his eyes were dimmed.

The night Jacquita went with Felipe, and the triumph of having his foolish, impudent, and impudent boy had been that evening. "He will return," thought she. "They always do."

"No, he is the party from the yacht made the tour of the world, and the most of about 6 years of his life was the life and rest of interest of the group. Glad in a sail boat, he would be, for he had under his white cap, formed a strong contrast to the dark-skinned children who were his playmates. For a pretty blonde girl followed with an elderly gentleman, and as she went along Jacquita, seeing her exquisite fairness, thought, "She is the Queen, and I am not like that!"

All the day Felipe remained not, and the speech of gentle reproach which she had prepared was not delivered. She began to wonder whether she had better never tell him. "The time has come, however, to tell him the 'other thing.' Life would be nothing without Felipe left out."

Her name came and found Jacquita and her mother seated at their fireside, talking with the neighbors, leaning out of windows, and the "The Snow-
flakes," as they call it, "Indian summer," lingered late that year.

A group gathered, among them Francisco, the rival beauty. She was large

BLEATS FROM RAM'S HORN.

in every way than Jacquita. To many of her brilliant smiles and jests.

"Hast heard the news?" she was saying. "I am the Queen, and I am the Queen, and I am the Queen, and I am the Queen."

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